

Every Knee Will Bow

1 Samuel 5-6

- I. INTRO (1 Samuel)
 - A. Theme of 1 Samuel → Who is the King?
 - B. God's creation, God's house
 - C. Since Gen 3 there's been open rebellion of gods (spiritual beings) and men
 - 1. The rebellion of mankind is obvious - just read Gen 1 to 11
 - 2. The rebellion of the gods is obvious - Gen 3, Gen 6, Psalm 82, more
 - D. The end result of all this is a world in turmoil, a world cursed by sin
 - E. God decided before there was time to unwind, restore, redeem, repair the breaking of the world caused by this rebellion even though it would come at great cost → the sacrifice, the execution, of his own son
 - F. On one level, the gospel is the exchange of Jesus, the Son of God, for a messed up world → the one for the many, the perfect for the imperfect, God for men
 - G. If this message of Good News is true, then Jesus deserves some applause
 - H. But here's the reality: the world is still in open rebellion. People still do not bend the knee to Jesus. The gods are still in rebellion (they know their time is brief)
 - I. It is estimated that of the 8.00 billion people alive in the world today, 3.40 billion of them live in unreached people groups with little or no access to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. There are approximately 17,446 unique people groups in the world with 7,391 of them considered unreached (over 42% of the world's population)!
 - 2. The vast majority (85%) of these least reached groups exist in what's called the 10/40 window, that band across ME/CA/NA
 - 3. Less than 3% of all missionary work is done among these people though they are the poorest of the poor in material and in access to gospel
 - J. In the evening of March 10th we are going to learn more about this and gather to pray for the Muslim world specifically as Muslims all over the world launch into Ramadan for what they believe are 30 days of seeking God
 - 1. Well... we are going to pray they find him, the real him. King Jesus!
 - K. And at the name of Jesus every knee will bow...
- II. 1 Samuel 5:1-5, The gods will kneel... will you?
 - A. Customary to view warfare as between gods
 - 1. You win, bring the idol into your temple
 - B. Dagon - fish god (maritime, fertility, harvest)
 - 1. Sacrifice crops livestock, fish
 - 2. He was the chief god of the Philistine pantheon of gods
 - C. No hands. No feet. No ears.
 - Psalm 115:5 They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.

- 6 They have ears, but do not hear;
noses, but do not smell.
- 7 They have hands, but do not feel;
feet, but do not walk;
and they do not make a sound in their throat.
- 8 Those who make them become like them;
so do all who trust in them.

- III. 1 Samuel 5:6-6:9, The nations will kneel before him... will you?
 - A. God sends wake up calls... how do you respond?
 - B. Hand against them, forcing them into submission
 - 1. Gods will kneel...
 - 2. Nations will kneel...
 - C. This doesn't mean they will necessarily repent!
 - D. Three times, instead of repenting, they sent God away
 - 1. God forced them into submission, wrestled them to the ground
 - 2. Grabbed their shoulder and made them kneel
 - 3. But inside... their hearts are still standing up
 - E. God's not interested in your heart, not outward expression
 - F. Hand of God was very heavy!
 - 1. KNEEL!
 - 2. Kneel they do, but not in worship, not in surrender, in submission
 - 3. Submission is not repentance; it's acknowledging defeat, like Pharaoh during the Exodus, but then trying to fight back given the chance
 - G. Allow the hand of God to bring you to stop, pause, surrender, look up and see your king
 - H. 6:1-9, The people see what their leaders resist to see with their hard hearts
 - 1. If you send it away...
 - 2. They want to believe it is coincidence
 - 3. Their hearts are too stubborn to believe, to see God's hand
 - 4. Despite warning, they harden their hearts
 - 5. They kneel, but not with repentance
- IV. 1 Samuel 6:10-7:2, Will his people kneel to him as the true KING?
 - A. Cart goes directly to Israel, much to the shock of the hard hearted priests of Dagon and the leaders
 - B. The Israelites see the Ark and rejoice
 - 1. A completely different response
 - 2. Kneeling as worship, surrender & joy
 - C. But wait... let's not forget who this king is... "They looked"
 - 1. They look conveys an unholy interest, maybe treating it as contempt or a tourist trap, sneaking a peak under the cover
 - 2. Israel's 7 months has not changed them spiritually in their heart
 - D. Stand? No one. We kneel
 - E. The tragedy: like the Philistines, they do not choose repentance but rejection
 - 1. They beg someone to take God away. They don't want him as king